A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 9. 1710

I HAVE In my laſt, ſtated the Principles of ſome of our preſent Parties, upon which they Act, in order to Examin, How the appearing Union between ſeveral of them can be carried on? And to Enquire, Whether or no they can Steer long together, in the preſent Voyage they ſeem'n bark'd for?

Papiſts, *Non-Jurors*, and profeſs'd *Jacobites*, ſteer directly for *France*, *to bring Home the Pretender*, they Honeſtly own him, and pretty openly too, *eſpecially in the North* —— Our High Flying Abjuring *Jacobites* in *England*, ſteer the ſame Way, *tho' their Sails ſtand bent for another Courſe* —— And they will not ſtick to go the full length with the other, *tho' they ſplit their Souls at* the end of the Voyage: But the meer *Tory*, the meer *High Church-Man*, however he may ſet out with them; however his Zeal againſt the *Diſſenters*, and his Ignorance of the Deſign of the *Jackiſh* Party, may carry him to join with them, and they may ſet out together; however they may appear as one Fleet —— it is evident they cannot Sail far together, for they muſt part at laſt —— Now let us ſee how far they may go?

But by the Way, *let me add* —— When they do part, they will be as Mortal Enemies

mies, as the other are now, *nay, and more so* —— 1*st*, The TORY will see, that hower the other, the *Jacobites*, have with fair Pretences, and cover'd Faces, join'd in with them againſt the *Whigs*, and againſt the *Diſſenters*; that the true End, was only to weaken the General Intereſt of both, *as Proteſtants*, and pull down the Conſtitution, as Revolutional; to divide both Parties, that they might at laſt, having deſtroy'd One, bring in the Pretender over the Bellies of the Other —— 2*dly*, the JACOBITES, &c. will ſee, that whatever length the *Tories* or *High Church Men*, may have gone, and however they have encourag'd the *Jacobites*, and accepted their help againſt the *Whigs* —— That however near, or like a Reſtoration, the Steps they have taken *may ſeem*, and however in their Natural Tendency, they might look towards their great End, *viz. The Pretender*, that ſtill in their true Aim, they meant nothing leſs —— And that they would in the End, only ſtrengthen themſelves, *the Tories*, by the Fall of the *Diſſenters*, that they (*High Church*) might be one Power United againſt them, the *Jacobites*.

When theſe Diſcoveries come to be made *on both Sides*, Will theſe People keep together? Is it poſſible? —— Pray let us Examin Precedents a little; and I'll Name you but two —— Both within our Memory.

Firſt, in King *Charles* II. Time, The Fury of that Reign had puſh'd on the Ruin of the *Diſſenters*, and of their Intereſt to ſuch a length, that indeed it was brought to a very low Ebb —— The *Tory Church-Man* had join'd with the *Papiſt*, and the *Papiſt* had fallen in with the *Tory Church-Man*, to run down the *Diſſenters* —— I forbear to revive the Memory of what the *Diſſenters* ſuffer'd, under their United Violence, it is but *renovare dolorem*, and a Monition to what they may expect, if ever thoſe Parties join again —— But mark the Progreſs of Things —— Whatever the Port was theſe two Parties Steer'd for —— They certainly Sail'd together a great Way —— As far as it was poſſible they could; nay, the *Tories* Sail'd a great Way out of their own Courſe, *and that ſo far*, that they run a great Riſque of never finding their Way back again.

King *Charles* died, and a Popiſh King Succeeded by the Conſent, and too much by the Aſſiſtance, *as it had been by the Procurement*, of this very High Church Party —— And ON they Sail'd together ſtill. *Monmouth* Attack'd them firſt; *well, mark it*, they fought together, and drank Blood together, till they gorg'd their Stomachs, and Vomited up the odious Filth of Tyranny and Perſecution.

But mark the End of Things; *Popery*, ſteady to its Port, held on its Courſe *for Rome*, High Church got beyond her Knowledge, and began to be a little uneaſie, hung back, and began to look behind her; ſhe ſaw round her a vaſt Ocean of Tyranny and Confuſion; ſhe ſaw before her a Huge Howling Wilderneſs of Idol Dragons, and Superſtitious Monſters, the Beaſts of the Roman Forreſt: She had left behind her—*And almoſt out of Sight*, all the Glories of her dear Country, ſuch as *Proteſtant Religion*, National Liberties, Laws, Privileges, &c. and behold, Frighted and Amaz'd, ſhe hung back —— Her new Leader the Papiſt, Tempted her, *Cloſeted her*, Threatned her, and Spurr'd her on —— But her Heart miſgave her, ſhe would not come on —— And ſo they parted, farther they could not go together.

On this parting, What did her *Roman* Confederate do? —— *Turn'd her open Enemy!* Courted the *Diſſenters*, *whom they had join'd before to Oppreſs*, and ſtrove to turn them (for Fleſh and Blood could not be without Reſentment) againſt her, to Revenge themſelves of their former ill Uſage from her.

What did the *Tory* Church Party do then? —— Truly, frighted at the Apprehenſions of the Papiſts Courting the Diſſenters, and Conſcious how ſhe had uſed them —— She fell to her Penitentials —— She held out her hands to the Diſſenters, and cried out in Terms like theſe.

Brethren

Brethren Diſſenters;

Will you conſider; We are all Proteſtants? We differ nothing in Fundamentals, we differ in nothing that ought to break in upon our Charity, and Brotherly Forbearance; Can you think of joining againſt us with Papiſts, and Idolaters, that are proteſs'd Enemies to us all? Can you think of putting to your Hands, to the Wicked Deſign of deſtroying a Proteſtant Church? It is true, we have been drawn in by Popiſh Arts to uſe you ill, to Perſecute and Oppreſs you — But we hope you will paſs that over, and not retain a Reſentment, ſince we acknowledge we were in the wrong, and do promiſe to come to a Temper; and if it ſhall ever be in our Power, to give a Legal Tolleration to Proteſtant *Diſſenters*, in a Parliamentary Way; and therefore we beſeech you to help us, and join with us in calling in the Prince of *Orange* with a Foreign Force to Reſiſt this Popiſh Tyrant of ours; that we may recover and reſtore our Religion and Liberties, and Eſtabliſh both.

If any Man Object againſt the Fact which this Repreſents, let him look back upon thoſe times, view the Pamphlets written by the Church of *England* Clergy, preſſing the Diſſenters in the moſt paſſionate moving Terms, to lay aſide their Reſentments, Prejudices and Animoſities, and to Unite in Affection, tho' they could not in Opinion, and to ſtand together againſt Popery, *&c.* and theſe will be abundant Witneſſes for me in this Caſe.

I might remind our High Church Men here, how readily the *Diſſenters* fell in with the Invitation; how heartily they rejected the fair Promiſes of the Papiſts, and how heartily they join'd with the Church in every part of that Affair, out of which the Revolution was produc'd; and I might ask them, For which of theſe Things is it, that now the Diſſenters are Rabbled, and Inſulted, and Threatned with new Severities; but I wave that for the preſent.

The uſe I have to make of this, is to ſee how far the two Parties can go together, in the Matter of the preſent Debate; and how certainly they muſt break before long.

The other Inſtance I had to give, was in the Diviſion between Court and Country at the Election of the laſt Parliament before this, where ſome Honeſt Men unluckily join'd with Jacobites to carry on a Party; but how little a way they went together, would be plain, and very much to the purpoſe; but I have not Room for it here——

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That having often Eſſay'd to carry on a continu'd Diſcourſe upon Trade in this Paper, but been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the Times, an unhappineſs the Author did not foreſee when this Work was undertaken—— And finding it impoſſible to have his Eſſays upon Trade purſu'd in this Paper, in ſuch an uninterrupted Manner as a Subject of the Conſequence requires; ſome Gentlemen, who deſire that Work to be carried on, have made a Propoſal, for the Writing a REVIEW to be entirely taken up upon the Subject of Trade, with a Miſcellany, *or a part reſerv'd to handle Particular Caſes in Trade—— And expreſly condition'd not to meddle with Matters of State, Diviſions of Parties, or any thing relating to the Affairs of Government, Civil or Eccleſiaſtick.*

It

This Work is propos'd to be Subscrib'd by such Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it, 'till it may be able to support it self; in which the Author hopes he may please you all, and may have an opportunity to lay down the unpleasant Subject of the Nation's Divisions; a Thing he has long desir'd to do.

The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this Paper, as soon as it is brought to a Conclusion. Mean time; any Gentlemen that are willing to Encourage such a Work, may let the Author know it by Letter, or such Method as they think fit.

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